



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

## Office of Pest Management

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### **Certification & Licensing Information**

The Office of Pest Management (OPM) is the **Arizona** regulatory body that regulates the use, disposal and storage of pesticides (which includes herbicides, etc.). The Environmental Protection Agency regulations, State Statutes and Rules guide the OPM.

**"Pest"** means a vertebrate or invertebrate insect, bird, mammal, other animal or organism, or a weed or plant pathogen that is in an undesirable location.

**"Pesticide"** is defined as any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating insects, fungi, microbes, weeds, rodents, predatory animals or any form of plant or animal life that is, or that the director may declare to be, a pest and that may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, humans, animals or households or be present in any environment. In addition to Insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, termiticides, fumigants, larvacides, adulticides, herbicides, avicides, or molluscicides, all-natural or organic substances such as essential oils or water may be considered a pesticide.

The **"Business of Pest Management"** is defined as: Engaging in, offering to engage in, advertising for, soliciting or performing pest management, including any of the following:

(a) Identifying infestations or making inspections for the purpose of identifying or attempting to identify infestations. (b) Making written or oral inspection reports, recommendations, estimates or bids with respect to infestations. (c) The application of pesticides or the making of contracts or submitting of bids for the application of pesticides or the use of devices for the purpose of eliminating, exterminating, controlling or preventing infestations.

Please read the information below, it contains information about each certification and license that is required to provide pest management services in Arizona. It is crucial to become familiar with the Arizona Revised Statutes (LAWS) and Arizona Administrative Codes (RULES) with regard to the Office of Pest Management.

Notwithstanding the examination requirements in A.A.C. R4-29-203(C), R4-29-204(G), and R4-29-211, the Director may waive the examination requirements in whole or in part for an individual who is certified as an applicator pursuant to A.R.S. Title 3, Chapter 2 or by another state.

Below is basic information with regard to OPM Licensing. More in depth information is available on the OPM website. A list of Study Materials is also available.

**Step 1 – Certified Applicator Application** – A Certified Applicator is an individual who is licensed by the OPM to provide pest management services, including a QA (Qualified Applicator). Certified Applicators may apply general or restricted-use pesticides while employed by an OPM licensed business or a political subdivision according to label directions.

**Applicator Certification Requirements** – submission of a completed application, the application fee (\$100), submission of the statement and evidence of lawful presence, and pass the Core and at least one category-specific examination with a score of 75% or higher to become certified in that specific category.

Initial Applicator License Training is available from the OPM at a cost of \$10.00 (for the day).

If you meet all of the requirements, you may move on to Step II.

**Step II – Certified Qualified Applicator (QA) Application** – In addition to the privileges of a certified applicator, a Qualified Applicator may be registered as a Qualifying Party of an OPM Business Licensee.

**Certified Qualified Applicator Requirements** – submission of a completed application, the application fee (\$200), the statement and evidence of lawful presence, possess the required experience or qualification, and pass the Core and at least one category-specific examination with a score of 75% or higher to become certified in that specific category.

Experience/Qualification Requirements:

1. Certification as an applicator for 24 months within 10 years immediately preceding the application in the category applied for;
2. Certification as an applicator for 12 months within 10 years immediately preceding the application in the category applied for and either
  - a. Successful completion of 12 semester hours or its equivalent Successful completion of 12 semester hours or its equivalent within the 10 years preceding the application in pest management courses directly related to each category applied for; or
  - b. A Bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences, biological sciences, or pest management with 12 semester hours or its equivalent in pest management courses directly related to each category applied for; or
3. Twenty-four months of verifiable experience in the business of pest management, in another State where licensure was not required, within the ten years preceding application directly related to the category applied for.

The Qualifying Party is a Qualified Applicator that has been registered with the OPM as the individual responsible for ensuring the training, equipping and supervision of all applicators of a business licensee or school district. Additionally, they are charged with ensuring the Business Licensee maintains the proper proof of financial security and is submitted to the OPM.

**Step III – Business License and Qualifying Party Registration Applications** – The BUSINESS LICENSE is a license that is issued person that entitles that person and the person's employees to engage in the business of pest management. Notwithstanding the exemptions in A.R.S. § 32-2311, § 32-2311.01, & § 32-2311.02; anyone that engages in the business of pest management needs a business license.

**New Business License Requirements** – complete business license and QP registration application, the application fee (\$300), a copy of the tradename certificate, articles of organization or incorporation, and proof of financial security.

**All three licenses are required to engage in the business of pest management that is not exempt from licensing in Arizona.**

If you have any additional questions or concerns with regard to OPM licensing please feel free to contact the Licensing Personnel via email at [Licensing@azda.gov](mailto:Licensing@azda.gov), or via telephone at 602-542-3578, in-state long distance callers may use 800-223-0618.